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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 46/24 of 5 December 1991, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States", the General Assembly took note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General (A/46/438) and requested the Secretariat of the United Nations and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States (LAS), within their respective fields of competence, inter alia, to intensify further their cooperation towards the realization of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the strengthening of international peace and security.

2. By the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and LAS and its specialized organizations in order to enhance their capacity to serve the mutual interests of the two organizations in the political, economic, social, humanitarian, cultural and administrative fields; and to continue to coordinate the follow-up action to facilitate the implementation of the proposals of a multilateral nature adopted at the Tunis meeting in 1983, and to take appropriate action regarding the proposals adopted at previous meetings.

3. The General Assembly decided that in order to intensify cooperation and for the purpose of review and appraisal of progress as well as to prepare comprehensive periodic reports, a general meeting between the United Nations system and LAS should take place once every two years, the next general meeting to be held in 1992, and inter-agency sectoral meetings should be organized annually on areas of priority and wide importance in the development of the Arab States.

4. The General Assembly took note of the intention of the League of Arab States to hold a high-level Arab regional meeting on children in 1992 and requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to cooperate with the League of Arab States in the furtherance of this objective.

5. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of LAS, to encourage periodic consultations between representatives of the Secretariat of the United Nations and of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States to review and strengthen coordination mechanisms with a view to accelerating implementation and follow-up action of multilateral projects and proposals adopted by the meetings of the two organizations.

6. The General Assembly recommended that the next general meeting between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States address itself to the development of a mechanism for enhancing cooperation between the two organizations.

7. The General Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its forty-seventh session a progress report on the implementation of the above resolution.

II. CONSULTATIONS AND EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION

8. On 30 September 1991, the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship of the United Nations Secretariat met with the Under-Secretary-General for International Political Affairs, League of Arab States, at United Nations Headquarters. They discussed matters of cooperation between the two organizations, in particular the sectoral meeting between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States on "Child Welfare and Development in the Arab Countries" which was to be held at Geneva on 25 and 26 November 1991.

9. On 3 October 1991, the Secretary-General of the United Nations met with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States at United Nations Headquarters. They took the opportunity to exchange views on matters of mutual interest, in particular the developments in the Middle East.

10. During the period under review, the secretariats of the United Nations and LAS continued to maintain close contact on matters of mutual concern to the two organizations.

III. FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON PROPOSALS AGREED TO AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

11. It may be recalled that the joint meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and LAS was held at Geneva from 18 to 20 July 1990 (see A/45/481/Add.1). The meeting decided to establish the following six sectoral areas for cooperation between the two organizations:

- (a) International peace and security;
- (b) Food and agriculture;
- (c) Labour, trade, industry and environment;
- (d) Social affairs;
- (e) Education, science, culture and information;
- (f) Communications.

12. A summary of reports of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system on their cooperation with LAS during the period under review is given below. This summary includes the activities in the sectoral areas, as well as the follow-up action on proposals adopted at the meeting held at Tunis

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in 1983 (A/38/299 and Corr.1), at Amman in 1985 (A/40/481/Add.1) and at Geneva in 1988 (A/43/509/Add.1).

A. Department of Political Affairs

1. Security Council Affairs

13. In the period since the last report of the Secretary-General (A/46/438), the Security Council extended invitations, under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure, to the Under-Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations to participate in its discussions on the destruction of Pan Am flight 103 over Scotland and Union des Transports Aeriens flight 772 over the Niger, as well as the situation in Somalia.

14. With regard to the Pan Am aircraft incident, the League of Arab States informed the Secretary-General of its position in a letter dated 6 December 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations, addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/758-S/23274).

15. In a letter dated 21 January 1992 addressed to the President of the Security Council, the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations transmitted the text of a resolution adopted by the Council of LAS at its extraordinary session on 5 January 1992 concerning the situation in Somalia (S/23448). In its resolutions 733 (1992) of 23 January 1992, 746 (1992) of 17 March 1992 and 751 (1992) of 24 April 1992, the Security Council welcomed the cooperation between the United Nations and LAS and other regional organizations concerned, and called upon the Secretary-General to initiate and continue, in close cooperation with such regional organizations, the contacts with all parties involved in the conflict of Somalia.

2. Outer Space Affairs

16. The Office for Outer Space Affairs has cooperated with the States members of the League of Arab States, particularly in implementing the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82).

17. Of the three training courses and three workshops conducted in 1991 under the auspices of the United Nations Space Applications Programme, participants from member States of LAS took part in the following: Workshop on Basic Space Science for Developing Countries held in India (30 April-3 May); Workshop on Microwave Remote Sensing Technology, held in Spain (10-14 June); and the Third United Nations International Training Course on Remote-Sensing Applications to Geological Sciences, held in Germany (7-25 October). The Workshop on Space Technologies for Development, a pre-International Astronautical Federation conference, was also attended by participants from LAS member States. The Workshop which was co-sponsored by the United Nations, was held in Canada from

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2 to 5 October 1991. The Workshop examined ways in which developing countries could identify specific space technologies and related applications that could make a significant contribution to their priority areas of development at an affordable cost, and develop appropriate programmes in those technologies and applications.

B. Department of Economic and Social Development

18. The Department has been implementing a substantial programme of technical cooperation activities with the League of Arab States as well as with the countries that are members of LAS.

1. Projects undertaken with LAS

19. The Department has undertaken the following two projects with LAS:

- (a) Administrative development of the Secretariat General of LAS, and
- (b) Assistance to the Population Research and Study Unit.

(a) The first project is aimed at strengthening the overall administrative capacity of the League to enable it to carry out the activities necessary to achieve its objectives in general, and social and economic development in particular. The budget for the project is over US\$ 3 million, partly contributed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and partly by the Arab Gulf Fund. Under this project, the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat is working with LAS in two main areas:

- (i) Training of LAS staff;
- (ii) Development of computer software and provision of the necessary hardware and equipment;

(b) The second project has been going on for several years. Its purpose is to assist the League of Arab States in strengthening a Population Research and Study Unit within its social affairs divisions in response to the population research and study needs of the LAS secretariat and to serve the Arab countries and the region as a whole in the formulation and implementation of population policies within the context of their socio-economic development strategies and plans. Out of this project, the Pan-Arab Project for Child Development (PAPCHILD), a survey of child population, was developed with the support of the Arab Gulf Fund and of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

20. The Department's participation in the second project is significant in that it provided the Project Manager/Survey Statistician for the overall project: it also provided consultants, as well as training and a portion of the equipment. The Department is also represented in the Steering and Technical Committees involved in planning the project, and provides Headquarters with technical advisory assistance.

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21. The PAPCHILD project provides the ministries of health and of social affairs, national child welfare councils and other bodies in the several countries served with research and policy studies with reliable information for formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating maternal and child care.

22. A regional working meeting for users and producers of maternal and child health care information for policy formulation and programming took place at Cairo in January 1992. The meeting was aimed at providing a realistic and diagnostic basis for assisting PAPCHILD in identifying major issues and areas of concern related to health policy implications in the Arab region. Guidelines on maternal and child health policy formulation, programming and monitoring are being prepared in the light of the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting and should be available during 1992.

23. During its meeting in March 1992, the PAPCHILD Higher Steering Committee, having expressed its high appreciation and great satisfaction for the work accomplished by PAPCHILD during its first phase, approved the extension of the programme to cover the remaining countries initially listed for the second phase of the programme and extended the implementation period to the end of 1995.

24. Early this year, the Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Economic and Social Development signed an agreement of cooperation in the field of technical cooperation with the League of Arab States.

2. Activities with member countries of LAS

25. The Department is also implementing various projects in the Arab League countries which address many key concerns of these countries in the fields of energy, physical infrastructure, mineral resources, water resources, statistics, and public administration.

C. Department of Humanitarian Affairs - Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator

26. The League of Arab States was kept informed during the period under review of relief assistance to its member States in which the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) was involved. In this connection, UNDRO extended its relief activities in Lebanon until June 1992 and launched appeals for assistance to the country following the snowstorms in February of the current year. An appeal for assistance was also launched in favour of Egypt following the flood caused by the collapse of a dam near Alexandria.

27. Following the earthquake which hit Yemen in November 1991 and the heavy rains which occurred in December of the same year, UNDRO launched an appeal for international assistance.

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28. In the area of disaster preparedness and prevention, UNDRO was and still is involved in national projects in Egypt, Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

29. In the framework of the UNDRO/UNDP Project of Seismic Risk Reduction in the Mediterranean, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia participated in a second workshop on seismic risk reduction and disaster mitigation which took place in Rome in November 1991. The aim of the workshop was to present and discuss the various countries' approaches in planning seismic risk mitigation and to find out what impact these have had on country planning.

30. In November 1991, UNDRO participated in the United Nations/League of Arab States joint meeting held at Geneva on child welfare and development.

D. United Nations Children's Fund

31. Cooperation between the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and LAS focuses on the promotion of the welfare of Arab children and women through the exchange of information and materials; joint participation in meetings on health and social development; joint sponsorship of studies; exchange of visits; and regular consultations. The major areas of cooperation include the following:

(a) Under the aegis of the League of Arab States, and in cooperation with UNICEF and the Arab Council for Childhood and Development (based at Cairo), eminent Arab personalities and scholars and government representatives met at Tunis on 23 and 24 June 1990 and prepared for the leaders of the Arab world a shared statement of purpose on childhood dealing with the achievements of the 1980s and the challenges of the 1990s. This joint Arab document was developed in preparation for the World Summit for Children and contains the shared aspirations and commitments for improving the conditions of children and women in the 1990s.

(b) Since 1988 UNICEF has cooperated with the League of Arab States, the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND) and UNFPA in the PAPCHILD project. The project has at its core the design, fielding and analysis of a series of country health surveys covering Algeria, Egypt, Mauritania, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. The surveys are aimed at examining the health status of children and women and at giving current readings on the levels of infant and child mortality and the determinants of child mortality. The project may be extended beyond 1992 to cover the other remaining Arab countries.

(c) LAS and UNICEF established a joint committee to meet twice a year, alternately at Tunis (now at Cairo) and Amman to discuss matters relating to the cooperation between the two organizations. The areas of cooperation in general are dealt with mainly by the Regional Director, supported by the Regional Office staff as required.

(d) UNICEF attends as observer the meetings of the Arab Council of Health Ministers and of the Arab Council of Social Affairs Ministers and LAS attends as observer the UNICEF Executive Board sessions.

E. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

32. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has continued to undertake activities of direct interest to LAS and its member countries. In particular, in the context of its TRAINMAR programme which is aimed at improving the capacity of developing countries to prepare and conduct maritime and multimodal management training programmes, UNCTAD has continued to cooperate with the League of Arab States. Through the Maritime Transport Academy at Sharjah, the League of Arab States was actively involved in the TRAINMAR programme. In July 1991, the Academy, which had been one of TRAINMAR's main centres, was closed and its functions were transferred to the Arab Maritime Transport Academy at Alexandria. Since the closure of the Sharjah Academy, steps have been taken to broaden the role of the Port Training Centre, a national TRAINMAR centre at Alexandria which works very closely with the League of Arab States maritime academy, to enable that centre to serve better the needs of other Arab States.

33. In November 1991, UNCTAD participated in a joint UNDP/UNCTAD/ITC (International Trade Centre) mission to the Arab region. The mission prepared a report indicating a programme of technical cooperation for regional trade development for possible UNDP technical cooperation in the framework of the fifth UNDP regional programming cycle (1993-1997).

34. With regard to issues related to the economy of the occupied territory, the UNCTAD secretariat has intensified its efforts to promote further cooperation with the General Secretariat of the LAS. There were regular consultations and an exchange of reports with the Economic Department of the LAS secretariat on developments in the economy of the occupied territory. UNCTAD also provided assistance in database development, including the provision of statistical series on the population of the occupied territory, to the Directorate of Social Affairs of the LAS secretariat. UNCTAD prepared an economic time series on the occupied territory for eventual use by the Arab League Documentation Centre (ALDOC) Special Data Base Unit, established at the General Secretariat of LAS. Consultations were held on technical assistance projects in areas of mutual concern, including the two project proposals prepared by, or in participation with, UNCTAD for the establishment in the occupied territory of an Investment Evaluation Centre and a Marketing and Export Promotion Centre. Following consultations with the Economic Department of the General Secretariat of LAS on the inter-sectoral project embarked upon by the UNCTAD secretariat for the preparation of a comprehensive study of the economy of the occupied territory, the Economic Department of LAS pledged a financial contribution towards the preparation of that study. The first instalment under that pledge was made available recently to the UNCTAD secretariat. As the preparation of the study is now under way, efforts are being made to cooperate in specific areas of mutual concern including the data-base development mentioned above.

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F. United Nations Development Programme

35. The League of Arab States receives technical cooperation support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the League's specialized organizations actively collaborate in the identification, execution and co-financing of several UNDP-funded intercountry development projects in the region.

36. UNDP, through its Regional Bureau for Arab States (RBAS), is supporting the LAS administrative and management development project, which is co-funded by AGFUND and executed by the Department of Economic and Social Development of the United Nations Secretariat. UNDP also supported an Arab Regional Information System Network, executed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which builds on previous assistance to establish the Arab League Documentation Centre for the benefit of the countries of the region.

37. The Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) is executing two UNDP-funded projects: one is to strengthen research management; the other is to develop oilseed crops. The Arab Telecommunications Union serves on the Steering Committee of a UNDP telecommunications development project. The Arab Maritime Transport Academy (AMTA) has implemented a UNDP-supported project for a network of training institutions in the region.

38. The Arab Labour Organization (ALO) is collaborating closely with UNDP and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to adapt labour administration systems to the emerging needs of its member States. The Arab Industrial Development Organization (AIDO) is cooperating with UNDP, ESCWA and other agencies to establish engineering infrastructures. The Arab Civil Aviation Council (ACAC) collaborated with UNDP in training civil aviation staff of several Arab States, and the Arab Postal Union cooperated in a UNDP-financed project to support the development of postal services in the region.

39. On thematic issues, LAS and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) co-sponsored with UNDP a pan-Arab conference on women's economic roles, convened at Cairo in May 1990. UNDP participated in the sectoral meeting on childhood development between LAS and the United Nations system in November 1991.

G. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine
Refugees in the Near East

40. Consultations and contacts continue at all levels between the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the LAS secretariat. During his visit to the LAS secretariat at Cairo on 5 May 1992, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA agreed with the Secretary-General of LAS that more direct contact should take place and that a memorandum of understanding between LAS and UNRWA should be concluded, which would enhance and further strengthen the existing cooperation between the two

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organizations. The Commissioner-General and other UNRWA officials also maintain regular contact with the Permanent Observers of LAS at Vienna and in New York. The Agency's office at Cairo maintains contact with the LAS secretariat.

41. UNRWA participated in the sectoral meeting on Child Welfare and Development in Arab Countries which took place at Geneva on 25 and 26 November 1991 between LAS and the United Nations system.

42. Arab States have contributed generously to UNRWA special emergency programmes at Gaza and the West Bank. LAS has continued its strong support for UNRWA programmes and is making every effort to urge its member States to increase their contributions to the Agency.

43. UNRWA maintains close contact with LAS member States, especially with the Arab host Governments of Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. These Governments are also members of the UNRWA Advisory Commission.

H. World Food Programme

44. A long-standing association between the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Governments of member countries of LAS has existed since the inception of the Programme in 1962. During the past 30 years, WFP contribution to development projects and emergency relief operations in Arab countries amounted to US\$ 3.5 billion, representing about 30 per cent of overall WFP commitments. WFP current assistance to development projects in LAS member countries is estimated at about \$483 million. Of the 32 operational projects in 9 Arab countries, 19 projects are in the field of agriculture, and land improvement and protection, including forestry; 13 are in the field of human resources in support of the activities in the social and educational sectors.

45. Although a large part of WFP resources is allocated to long-term development projects, the Programme is becoming increasingly involved in a growing number of emergency relief operations designed to alleviate food shortages resulting from war, civil strife, drought and national disasters. The greatest commitment by WFP of its emergency resources is to the world's millions of refugees and displaced persons.

46. WFP is presently involved in two large-scale emergency operations worth over \$150 million in five Arab states. WFP emergency assistance is delivered to victims of the Gulf War in Iraq and Jordan, while its relief assistance for refugees and victims of civil strife in the Horn of Africa is provided to displaced persons in the Sudan, Djibouti and Yemen. WFP works closely with various non-governmental relief organizations and other United Nations agencies. It coordinates the purchase of commodities, organizes complicated deliveries of food by train, trucks, boat and charters airlift to inaccessible areas.

I. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

47. Cooperation between the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the League of Arab States covered a wide range of activities. In general terms, these activities centred around the following areas:

(a) ESCWA attended for the first time, and as an observer, the 50th meeting of the Economic and Social Council of LAS, first at the expert and permanent representative level, from 2 to 3 February 1992, and subsequently at the ministerial level, on 5 February 1992. It also attended the United Nations/LAS Sectoral Meeting on "Child Welfare and Development in the Arab Countries" held at Geneva, on 25 and 26 November 1991.

(b) Discussions were held on 6 February 1992 between the Executive Secretary of ESCWA and the Assistant Secretaries-General of the economic, social, political and Palestinian affairs offices of LAS. The discussions centred upon strengthening joint activities and cooperation between ESCWA and LAS. Joint activities currently scheduled include the following: preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; coordinated efforts pertaining to the revised System of National Accounts; the Conference on Population and Development in the Arab World, which is a 1993 preparatory meeting for the World Conference on Population (1994); and the high-level Arab regional meeting for children in 1992.

48. In specific terms, joint ESCWA/LAS activities covered the following fields.

Energy

49. ESCWA will, upon request from LAS, offer technical advice to the Arab League representative concerning the fifteenth Congress of the World Energy Council to be held at Madrid, from 20 to 25 September 1992.

Environment

50. ESCWA has cooperated with LAS in the activities listed below.

(a) It cooperated in convening the Arab Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development, held at Cairo from 10 to 12 September 1991, and in collectively participating in the formulation and adoption of the Arab Declaration on Environment and Development. The Conference was co-funded by UNDP, which also provided funds for the participation of the representatives of the least developed Arab countries. The Conference supported ESCWA efforts in coordinating environment and development activities, including a regional strategy for environment and sustainable development. To this end, ESCWA was active in coordinating activities and consolidating the Arab position for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held at Rio de Janeiro in June 1992.

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(b) ESCWA participated in the establishment of the Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE) at Damascus, in July 1991, and also in the Arab Ministerial Conference on Environment, held at Damascus from 20 to 25 December 1991, to discuss mechanisms for the implementation of the above-mentioned projects and of other priority environmental projects in the Arab countries.

(c) LAS requested ESCWA to organize jointly with the League a workshop on industrial pollution in the Arab world, held at Alexandria, Egypt, from 28 to 30 June 1992, and a workshop on rapid assessment of industrial pollution, to be held at Cairo in November 1992.

(d) Further, ESCWA initiated, in cooperation with LAS, the establishment of an Inter-agency Coordination Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab countries. The first meeting of the Committee was convened at Cairo on 28 and 29 April 1992.

(e) Upon request of LAS, the representative of ESCWA to the Fourth Preparatory Committee of UNCED provided technical assistance to the Arab group attending the Conference on issues pertaining to Agenda 21.

(f) ESCWA was in touch with the chairman of the Executive Bureau of the Arab Ministers on Environment to coordinate unified Arab positions during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

(g) ESCWA participated in a technical meeting convened by ALO at Cairo in May 1992 to elaborate policies for the improvement of environmental safety standards in the workplace.

Human settlements

51. In order to strengthen the capabilities of national professionals, public officials and administrators to effectively control urban growth, to develop a network of expertise from the region and to promote interregional endeavours, ESCWA undertook the following activities:

(a) It coordinated its efforts with regional organizations such as the Islamic Development Bank and the Arab Urban Development Institute, and with national governmental agencies such as the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning in Yemen, in the logistic and substantive preparations for the holding of the Symposium on Low-Cost Housing in the Arab Region.

(b) It Held meetings with officials from the Economic Commission for Europe, the Aga Khan Award for Architecture, the Commission of the European Communities and the Swiss Centre for Appropriate Technology, to formulate joint activities in various fields of human settlements, notably, the Symposium on Low-Cost Housing in the Arab Region, to be held on 24-28 October 1992, and the Workshop on Environmentally Conscious, Low-Energy Housing, to be held in 1993.

Industry

52. Activities in the area of industry included the following:

(a) The Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) organized a meeting of officers responsible for biotechnology in the Arab countries, to be held at Amman from 14 to 16 December 1992;

(b) The twelfth session of the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils was convened at Cairo from 10 to 12 December 1991.

Natural resources

53. Joint activities between ESCWA and LAS involved close cooperation with the Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) in the area of water, including the exchange of information regarding the development of water data banks in both organizations. ACSAD is also a member of the steering committee of the ESCWA project on assessment of water resources using remote sensing techniques in the ESCWA region.

Statistics

54. Within the context of the agreement on cooperation in statistics between LAS and ESCWA, a number of joint activities were undertaken which included the following:

(a) ESCWA continued its participation in annual meetings of the Arab Standing Committee on Statistics, and is a member of the technical advisory committee for the Pan Arab Project for Child Development (PAPCHILD project). This series of national health surveys is aimed at examining the health status of children and mothers in the Arab world, and at training national professionals.

(b) LAS and ESCWA also co-sponsored the UNDP Pan-Arab Conference on Social and Economic Challenges of the 1990s: Arab Women's Contribution to Development, which was convened at Cairo in May 1990.

(c) The Unified Arab Statistical Abstract will continue to be published jointly by ESCWA and LAS. It is hoped that the compendium of social statistics in the Arab countries will also be published jointly.

55. Within the framework of the agreement signed with the Arab Industrial Development and Minerals Organization (AIDMO) on 24 October 1991, ESCWA and AIDMO will jointly execute the following activities:

(a) Issue a joint publication on industrial statistics;

(b) Organize a joint workshop in the field of industrial statistics, to be held in 1993;

(c) Cooperate in the establishment of industrial databases and in the exchange of information and publications.

J. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

56. Under the programme of the "Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000", the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the League of Arab States and the Government of Egypt are jointly sponsoring the Arab States Regional Conference on National Shelter Strategies, to be held at Cairo from 13 to 17 December 1992. This important conference will facilitate further cooperation among the States members of LAS in formulating and implementing housing strategies as well as in monitoring the performance of the shelter sector.

57. In the field of technical cooperation, despite the Gulf crisis, all UNCHS (Habitat) projects in the Arab States were operational, except those in Somalia and Yemen. Several missions to States members of LAS were fielded immediately upon the end of the Gulf war in preparation for the UNDP fifth cycle.

58. A regional workshop on Training of Trainers in Urban Finance and Management was held at Cairo from 26 to 30 April 1992 for the Mashrig subregion. The workshop analysed past trends affecting municipal management and performance, considered desirable changes required to improve municipal management, identified constraints and problems which could be alleviated by further training and identified mismatches between existing training strategies and training responses required.

K. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

59. Contacts and discussions between the League of Arab States and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to explore ways and means of cooperation are continuing. The signing of a specific cooperation agreement between the two organizations is still under consideration.

60. Operational relations in all fields of common concern have been undertaken at Geneva by UNHCR as well as in Egypt by the UNHCR Regional Representative for the Middle East.

L. International Labour Organisation

61. During the period under review, the Regional Office for the Arab States focused its attention on the provision of assistance to members of LAS that were most seriously affected by the Gulf crisis in the West Asia region. Furthermore, the Office made special efforts to reactivate its operations in

the region and actively participated in the preparatory work related to the forthcoming fifth UNDP programme cycle.

62. A number of missions were undertaken by regional advisers in the fields of cooperatives, labour administration and legislation, workers' and employers' activities, vocational rehabilitation and vocational training. The work of the regional advisers included identification and preparation of new technical cooperation projects; technical advisory services; backstopping to the operational projects; organization of, and/or representation at, meetings and seminars; and promotion of international labour standards.

63. A multidisciplinary mission covering vocational training, manpower planning, labour administration, vocational rehabilitation and cooperatives visited the United Arab Emirates to formulate the sectoral programme to be incorporated in the fifth UNDP country programme; preparations were made for similar missions to Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic. Technical consultancy missions were also fielded as follows: to Jordan, on small enterprise development and handicrafts development and on training and income-generating activities; to Yemen, on labour market statistics, economic surveys, international labour standards and employment services; to the Syrian Arab Republic, on social security; and to Lebanon, on labour law information. Extrabudgetary projects were implemented in the fields of vocational rehabilitation, cooperatives, employment promotion and manpower policy, handicraft development, hotels and tourism, small enterprise development, labour administration and occupational safety and health.

64. The Regional Arab Programme of Labour Administration (RAPLA) organized three regional seminars on employment services and migration, on labour administration and on labour inspection, and two subregional seminars on labour legislation. Various ILO manuals, including those on international labour standards, labour inspection, vocational guidance and training of trainers were translated into Arabic.

65. Three regional seminars - on the systems approach to training, on modules of employable skills training, and on training policy, planning and coordination - were organized under the Skills Development Programme for Arab Countries (SDEPAC), which also initiated the development and exchange of training materials and the preparation of the modular skill training programmes.

1. Social security activities in LAS

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

66. The ongoing Trust Fund project is being revised and extended to include additional or new assistance in the following fields: actuarial; investment; organization and management, including computerization; and financial/accounting. Provision is also being included for additional fellowships.

Qatar

67. The Social Security Department has participated in a multisectoral mission and has provided a preliminary view on the feasibility of social security schemes in this country.

Syrian Arab Republic

68. A preliminary actuarial mission was carried out in November-December 1991. This is likely to result in a project aimed at carrying out a full actuarial valuation of the social security scheme.

Tunisia

69. The first phase of a World Bank-financed project for the financial/actuarial study of the entire social security system was terminated. The second phase is yet to be implemented.

Yemen

70. ILO has continued its support for the General Corporation of Social Security (GCSS) which it has helped to set up by providing the necessary expertise to cope with the problems associated with institution-building. This expertise involves technical and administrative procedures along with other steps that would lead towards a fully computerized administration of the scheme.

71. Parallel to the assistance it has provided GCSS, ILO has addressed the issues of the civil servants scheme. It has provided experts in the fields of accounting and administration.

Kuwait

72. A trust fund project to carry out the actuarial valuation of the social security scheme (as of 30 June 1992) is under negotiation.

2. Labour information and statistics

73. Following close cooperation between the ILO and LAS on the establishment of the Arab League Documentation Centre, the ILO Central Library and Documentation Branch has, since 1983, provided the League, every six months, with records from its bibliographic database, LABORDOC, which relate to Arab countries.

74. While the Bureau of Statistics does not share any project directly with the League of Arab States, it is involved in a technical cooperation project on the Labour Information Network in Egypt and a regional seminar on surveys of the Palestine Labour Force, organized with the Palestine Central Statistical Office, and to be held in 1992.

3. Technical backup to UNFPA/ILO projects

75. The provision of technical backstopping and support to UNFPA/ILO country technical cooperation projects and to non-project assisted activities was the mainstay of such activities and it received the priority attention of the Regional Adviser. Considerable work was required to support the ongoing projects in Egypt, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Jordan, Yemen, Somalia and Morocco. These projects were in the fields of human resources development, migration and urbanization, women and development and population and family welfare education in the work setting.

4. Participation in UNFPA programme review missions

76. The ILO Regional Adviser participated in the UNFPA programme review missions to Egypt, the Sudan, Somalia, Morocco, Jordan and Yemen, and represented the ILO at the tripartite meetings of the ongoing projects in these countries.

5. Workshop

77. The workshop on promotion of the participation of disabled persons in cooperatives in countries of the ESCWA region was held at the International Training Centre of the ILO at Turin from 27 to 30 January 1992. The workshop was attended by representatives of the Governments, cooperative movements and non-governmental organizations of Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Representatives of Palestine also took part in the workshop, along with the representatives of the workers' and employers' organizations.

6. Development of rural cooperatives

78. The development of rural cooperatives for Yemen was completed in February 1992 after two years of operations. The project contributed to training programmes for personnel of the Cooperative Department and cooperative societies, and developed short and long-term strategies and programmes for improving the structure and operations of the rural cooperatives. Education and extension programmes to increase the cooperative members' awareness of the project were also conducted. A new phase of the project is under preparation.

7. Employment promotion and manpower policies (1989-1991)

79. The long-term objective of this UNDP-funded project for Jordan is to raise the capacity of the Jordanian economy to generate productive jobs, hence reducing the level of unemployment and underemployment. The immediate objective is to establish an institutional framework and to develop the

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technical capacity of the Government to design policies for reducing unemployment and for creating sustained employment.

80. The formulation of a second phase of the project is under way. During 1992-1994 the project is expected to consolidate the manpower information system and to continue policy-oriented research and institution-building, while also moving towards identifying sources of labour demand (domestic and international) as well as programmes to promote employment, including self-employment and the integration of women.

81. Since 1987, the ILO has been assisting Mauritania in the implementation of a comprehensive food-for-work project, a UNDP-financed project with the Government as executing agency. The project's main objectives are to implement diversified small-scale rural works aimed at the reduction of external food-aid dependence in the long term, the development of self-help activities, and the promotion of long-term employment and income opportunities.

82. To improve labour absorption in national infrastructure programmes through better use of local resources, the ILO assists the Government of Morocco in implementing a nationwide road maintenance, planning, programming and cost-analysis system. A manual was produced. A two-year technical assistance project to assist a labour-based feeder road programme is being prepared; the project is financed by UNDP.

83. The Employment and Development Department (EMPLOI) of ILO participated in an ILO multidisciplinary mission in February 1992 and prepared a section of the mission report covering the manpower/employment planning and labour market information situation in Qatar, with particular reference to the capabilities of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Housing, which had requested the mission.

8. Poverty alleviation and employment creation through special public works programmes

84. The ILO provides technical assistance and training to local level institutions in Kordofan, Darfur and White Nile provinces of the Sudan with the aim of demonstrating, through special rural works programmes funded by UNDP, the feasibility of employment policies and related objectives among special target groups, in line with Convention No. 122 on employment policy, Conventions Nos. 100 and 111 on equal opportunities, etc.

85. The ILO is assisting the Government of the Sudan in the implementation of an area development scheme in North Darfur which seeks to promote sustained, environmentally sound development with the full participation of local communities in the decision-making and implementation processes.

9. Development of micro-enterprises in Kordofan

86. A new project concerned with the development of micro-enterprises has recently become operational as a means of promoting income-generating activities and opportunities for self-employment in rural and urban areas of Kordofan. This project places particular emphasis on enhancing the capacity of several institutions in the Sudan to provide services to small enterprises.

87. The ILO, with assistance from UNDP, established a "poverty line" for Tunisia on the basis of which the poor families were identified. A national programme of direct assistance to 100,000 poor families was launched. At present there is a plan for a second phase of the project which will involve the design of a comprehensive approach to poverty reduction, based on employment creation. This will be undertaken by the ILO in collaboration with UNDP and the Ministry of Social Affairs in Tunisia.

88. EMPLOI participated in an ILO multidisciplinary mission to the United Arab Emirates in May 1991, and analysed the manpower, employment and labour market information situation in the country. Recommendations made concerned, in particular, the strengthening of the capabilities of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in the fields of manpower/employment planning and labour market information.

Meetings

89. ILO participated at the sectoral meeting between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, on "Child Welfare and Development in the Arab Countries", which was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 25 and 26 November 1991.

90. The Office was represented at all sessions of the Governing Body of the Arab Labour Organization (ALO). It subscribed to the publication in Arabic of the Encyclopaedia of Occupational Safety and Health, and other documentation in Arabic. Cooperation with AGFUND continued and included visits by senior officials to ILO headquarters to discuss future cooperation between the two organizations. During these visits, an agreement to carry out a joint activity of women workers was reached, and preparatory work started in 1991. At the request of the Executive Bureau of the Council of Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs in the Gulf States, the Office provided technical papers for a seminar it was convening on the subject of the socio-economic impact of the Gulf crisis.

91. Close cooperation and collaboration with other regional and subregional organizations were also maintained. The organizations included the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), the General Union of the Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of the Arab Countries and the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions (ICATU).

92. ILO representatives continued to attend meetings of a general and specialized nature and the cooperation between ILO and LAS has increased and has taken the form of exchange of information and attendance at meetings and seminars. The volume of ILO operational activities in LAS member States increased significantly in 1991 and covered many social and technological aspects.

M. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

1. Regional studies

93. During the reporting period, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) prepared several regional studies and technical papers relevant to the work of the League of Arab States. These included a revised and updated version of the paper on "Regional Economic Cooperation for Agricultural Development in the Near East Region", published in 1991. The paper highlights the major difficulties confronting the region at the turn of the decade. A study on "Policy Implications for the Role of Women in Interregional Labour Mobility" has been initiated.

2. Regional meetings

94. As a follow-up to the workshop held at Damascus in July 1990 on "Orienting Curricula of Agricultural Intermediate Institutes and Secondary Schools in Syria to the Needs of Rural Development", a project on "Improved Agricultural Education at Junior College and Secondary School Levels" was formulated in 1991, in close collaboration with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD).

95. At the request of the Government of Yemen, a national workshop was organized by FAO at San'a from 2 to 9 October 1991 on "Linkage between Agricultural Technical Training, Research and Extension". The AOAD office in Yemen participated in the proceedings of the workshop and provided valuable technical input.

96. At the invitation of the Arab Federation of Food Industries, the FAO Regional Office for the Near East attended the Third Arab Conference on Food Canning Industry, held in Tunisia from 9 to 12 December 1991. A FAO paper on "Fish Canning and Consumption in the Arab Countries" was presented at the Conference.

97. The FAO Regional Office for the Near East also participated in the Eleventh Session of the General Assembly of the Arab Federation of Fish Producers (AFFP) held in Tunisia from 11 to 12 December 1991. The main discussions were centred on present and future cooperation between AFFP and the FAO Fish Marketing Information, Promotion and Technical Advisory Services for Arab Countries (INFOSAMAK) project. An outline of future cooperation was drawn up in order to coordinate activities of both organizations.

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98. The FAO Regional Office for the Near East participated in a Symposium on Small Farmers' Development in the Arab Region, organized by AOAD at Cairo, from 2 to 4 February 1992. A FAO paper entitled "Organization and Management of Agricultural Marketing Services for Small Farmers in the Near East" was presented at the Symposium.

99. The collaboration between FAO and the League of Arab States continued, as in the past, in reciprocal attendance at high-level technical meetings. Invitations to meetings of the FAO statutory bodies were extended to the LAS subsidiary bodies. AOAD attended the Fourth Session of the Near East Agriculture Commission, held in Jordan in December 1991, and ACSAD attended the Fourth Session of the Near East Economic and Social Policy Commission held in the Syrian Arab Republic in October 1991.

3. Technical cooperation

100. FAO cooperation with AOAD and AFESD continued with regard to agricultural statistics in the Sudan. The contribution of FAO included the fielding of two consultants in agricultural statistics. Funding of an agricultural census is also being sought.

101. In forestry, FAO is promoting the Programme on Genetic Resources of Arboreal Species for the Improvement of Rural Living in Arid and Semi-Arid Areas, which is of relevance to the LAS subsidiary bodies. FAO was actively involved in the meetings of the Greenbelt Project for the Arab States of North Africa, held in Tunisia in May 1991 and at Cairo in June 1991.

102. In the area of marketing and rural finance, FAO cooperated with the Arab Association of Fertilizer Producers. The FAO Research Development Centre also cooperated with AOAD and ACSAD in this field.

103. Cooperation continued between the FAO INFOSAMAK Project and AFESD in Bahrain. Phase II of INFOSAMAK is co-financed by UNDP and AFESD. Contacts are being made with AFESD to co-finance phase III of the two-year project which is scheduled to commence in July 1992.

104. Contacts are being made with the Arab Trade Financing Programme, sponsored by the Arab Monetary Fund at Abu Dhabi, in order to reach a formula for cooperation between the Programme and the INFOSAMAK Project after UNDP assistance for the project ceases. Integration is one of the options under consideration.

105. Fisheries trade statistics and market information specifically in the Arab world, as in the world in general, are regularly provided by INFOSAMAK to several LAS specialized organizations. These organizations consist of the Arab Federation of Fish Producers, the Arab Trade Financing Programme, the Arab Organization for Agriculture Development, and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

4. Exchange of information

106. Exchange of information continued during the period under review through the exchange of FAO and LAS publications in the fields of agriculture, trade, fertilizer, fisheries and forestry. FAO has made significant efforts to issue its publications in Arabic to facilitate this exchange of information.

N. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

107. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is continuing to cooperate with the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO). To this end, a joint UNESCO/ALECSO Commission met at UNESCO headquarters in May 1992 to discuss cooperation between the two bodies. At the conclusion of that meeting, a document setting out the areas in which they intend to embark on cooperative activities was signed by the two Directors-General. UNESCO cooperation with LAS will be pursued in the following areas.

1. Education

108. Cooperation between UNESCO and LAS through AGFUND currently covers pre-school education, women's training and special education. UNESCO has executed a pre-school education project in Saudi Arabia together with AGFUND and the Saudi Government; three training centres have been established, one each at Jedda, Riyadh and recently in the eastern region. During the visit of H.R.H. Prince Talal to the UNESCO General Conference, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Director-General of UNESCO and Prince Talal to expand the pre-school project into six Arab countries. In addition, UNESCO cooperates with LAS in other areas, such as literacy and adult and non-formal education; the programme of education for the prevention of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS); and the programme "Universalization and Renewal of Primary Education and Eradication of Adult Illiteracy in the Arab States by the Year 2000" (ARABUPEAL).

2. Sciences

109. In the field of science and technology, UNESCO cooperates mainly with ALECSO and ACSAD through its Regional Office for Science and Technology for the Arab States (ROSTAS).

3. Culture

110. Within the framework of the World Decade for Cultural Development, ALECSO submitted, under the UNESCO Participation Programme for 1990-1991, a project entitled "Study within the context of the World Decade for Cultural Development: Socio-economic policies in the Arab world with a special

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emphasis on their characteristics and technical requirements" which received the label "Activity of the Decade". ALECSO has been associated with the implementation of activities related to the international campaign for safeguarding the cultural heritage of mankind such as those in San'a and Shibam in Yemen.

111. UNESCO cooperation with LAS will be strengthened during this biennium through joint actions with cultural and scientific institutions of all regions aimed at promoting the development of the Arab culture.

4. Communication

112. The General Information Programme of UNESCO is working in close cooperation with the Arab League Documentation Centre (ALDOC) on a project funded by UNDP (RAB/86/010) with the objective of creating an information network (ARIS-NET) in the Arab region.

113. Finally, most of the activities which take the form of joint meetings, seminars, conferences, workshops and exchange of information and consultations in the fields of education and sciences are carried out in cooperation with the United Nations Education Bureau for the Arab States (UNEDBAS), the International Bureau of Education (IBE) and ROSTAS.

O. International Civil Aviation Organization

114. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has maintained close cooperation with the League of Arab States, particularly through the ICAO Middle East Regional Office at Cairo on matters relating to civil aviation. In September 1991, the President of the Council of ICAO addressed a meeting of the LAS Civil Aviation Committee, held at the level of Presidents and Directors General of Civil Aviation of Arab States. ICAO participated in subsequent meetings, a major purpose of which was to recommend the revival of an Arab civil aviation body, inasmuch as the former Arab Civil Aviation Council had ceased operations in 1989. The Economic and Social Council of LAS subsequently agreed to establish within the League of Arab States, a civil aviation body. ICAO looks forward to working in cooperation with that body, as it did in the past, in order to ensure the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation in the region.

115. The League of Arab States is invited to relevant ICAO meetings. It was invited to the world-wide Air Transport Colloquium held in April 1992 and is also invited to the twenty-ninth Session of the Assembly of ICAO which opens on 22 September 1992.

P. World Health Organization

116. The World Health Organization (WHO) continued its consultation/cooperation with the League of Arab States as follows:

- (a) Implementing the PAPCHILD project to cover all the other member States;
- (b) Processing the Arabization of medical education;
- (c) Strengthening the WHO publication programmes which produce standardization of medical terminology in Arabic;
- (d) Updating and following up the implementation of the strategy for health development in the Arabic world;
- (e) Strengthening and implementing the priority areas agreed upon in Arab strategy, especially in AIDS programmes, essential drugs, blood transfusions, protection from radiation and environmental health.

1. Strategy for health development in the Arab world

117. With the assistance of member States of LAS, WHO is updating the national health strategies for Health for All by the Year 2000. Both WHO and member States are trying to overcome the constraints and difficulties involved in this multisectoral activity. The evaluation of the Health for All strategy by all countries took place during 1991.

2. AIDS

118. WHO and the Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO) have been deeply involved in the preparation of the Arab strategy for prevention and control of AIDS. Regional activities already implemented and planned cover the various activities set in the Arab strategy.

119. The Regional Office, considering the importance of blood transfusion, has organized a Regional Workshop on Immunodeficiency Virus Blood Safety in which all Arab countries of the region participated. WHO supports national programmes which ensure the safety of blood through laboratory screening and gives top priority to its programmes in this area in collaboration with countries of the region.

3. Essential drugs

120. Collaboration between WHO and LAS member States lies in the following areas: (a) formulation of an Arab drug policy; (b) coordination and development of an Arab drug industry; (c) compilation of an Arab pharmacopoea;

(d) establishment of a network of collaborating quality-control laboratories; and (e) setting up of an Arab drug research centre. A suitable plan of action will have to be prepared to execute these activities.

4. Blood transfusion

121. In line with EMRO policy, an agreement between AGFUND and WHO was signed to establish a project for the development of blood transfusion services in 11 countries of the eastern Mediterranean region. The project is aimed at making available safe blood and blood derivatives to the needy population. Of the group of countries identified for this project, some are in great need of immediate support for the strengthening of their national blood transfusion services.

5. Protection from radiation

122. EMRO is already collaborating with some Arab countries, namely Egypt, Yemen, Kuwait and the Syrian Arab Republic in providing film badge services and TLD capsules for monitoring and controlling radiation protection in medical fields.

6. Environmental health activities

123. The Centre for Environmental Health Activities (CEHA) at Amman has, in collaboration with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Canada, established a water, sanitation and environmental health information network called CEHANET. CEHANET has made contacts with the Arab League Documentation Centre (ALDOC), especially for Arabized information tools. CEHANET has developed an Arabic thesaurus of water supply and sanitation. Also, through a major intercountry water supply and sanitation programme in support of Decade activities, which is assisted by AGFUND, substantial support in the areas of promotion, manpower development, women's involvement, etc., has been provided to 18 Arab States. As part of the "Healthy Cities Action", projects and programmes for UNDP funding have been prepared in order to establish linkages between Arab cities.

7. Maternal and child health activities in the field of youth

124. WHO and UNICEF organized jointly the Intercountry Workshop on Youth and Health Development, held at Amman from 18 to 23 December 1989. It was attended by responsible officials in the Ministries of Health and Youth from 15 Arab countries: Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen. Topics discussed included health and health-related problems of youth, promotion of young people's health, and involvement of youth and youth organizations in health development.

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8. United Nations/LAS meeting

125. WHO attended the meeting between the United Nations system and LAS on child survival, protection and development in the Arab countries, held at Geneva on 25 and 26 November 1991.

Q. World Bank

126. The World Bank continues to support economic and social programmes in individual LAS member countries through its lending and selected activities. In fiscal year 1991, the Bank committed over US\$ 1.6 billion to development programmes in these countries. This assistance was concentrated on the priority areas of education, population, health and nutrition, development finance, industry, transport and adjustment.

R. World Meteorological Organization

127. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) concluded working arrangements with the League of Arab States in 1972, the Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) in 1978 and with ALECSO in 1982. By these agreements, LAS, ACSAD and ALECSO are invited to participate in the secretariat of WMO constituent bodies as observers. WMO assistance and technical cooperation activities in the member countries of LAS continue to use resources made available by UNDP, the WMO regular budget and its voluntary cooperation programme. A number of projects on manpower development, water resources, climate assessment, hydrology and meteorology were implemented in 1991 in Algeria, Jordan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

128. The assistance provided by WMO was aimed at strengthening the capabilities of the national meteorological and hydrological services in the member countries of LAS to provide the necessary information and data for the socio-economic development projects including protection of life and property; at monitoring climatic changes; and at protecting the atmospheric environment.

129. In addition to the above, assistance was provided within the framework of the WMO voluntary cooperation programme and its regular budget in the form of expert services, spare parts, short and long-term fellowships in some countries. Further, an intercountry project for the transfer of technology and the improvement of TCDC among the member countries in the field of operational hydrology was completed in 1990 and was implemented jointly by WMO and ACSAD.

S. International Maritime Organization

130. The technical cooperation activities of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) with member countries of LAS in the field of maritime training, maritime safety and prevention of pollution from ships include the

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project on assistance to the Association of African Maritime Training Institutes (AAMTI) (RAB/86/023).

131. The project promotes horizontal cooperation in the area of maritime training among the following Arab States: Algeria, Egypt, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Somalia and Tunisia.

132. Project activities carried out in 1991 included the common guidelines on a harmonized system of education, examination and certification and fact-finding tours to AAMTI to assess development needs and the potential for technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC), as well as to establish a common database system introduction on a regional basis of IMO model courses. An IMO/AAMTI Congress was held on 25 and 26 November 1991 with all AAMTI members with a view to elaborating a plan of action for the implementation of a harmonized system of education, examination and certification.

T. World Intellectual Property Organization

133. In the field of industrial property, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) executed several regional UNDP-financed projects with the objective of strengthening the basis of the technological development of the Arab countries, through the enforcement of the industrial property system and the promotion of its effective use. In July 1991, a Regional Introductory Training Course on Industrial Property for Arab Countries was organized at Cairo by WIPO in cooperation with the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) of Egypt and with the assistance of UNDP. A total of 52 participants from nine countries (Egypt, Jordan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen) attended the course.

134. Expert missions visited the region on a regular basis and WIPO advised some of the Arab countries on the revision and updating of their industrial property legislation. WIPO also assisted the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in the formulation of a draft uniform patent law for the States concerned and proposed the necessary implementing regulations.

135. In the field of the International Patent Classification (IPC), WIPO assisted the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils (FASRC) in the Arabization of volume 9 of IPC which has been distributed to all Arab States.

136. In the field of copyright, WIPO has cooperated with ALECSO and the Governments in the region through the organization of seminars, training courses and expert meetings. Assistance was also provided to some of the countries in establishing or revising their legislation on copyright and neighbouring rights.

137. A cooperation agreement was signed between WIPO and ALECSO in 1983 following the visit of the Director General of WIPO to the headquarters of LAS, the Arab Broadcasting Union and ALECSO.

U. International Fund for Agricultural Development

138. At the end of 1991, assistance by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to the Near East and North Africa region under the regular programme amounted to approximately US\$ 509.02 million for 46 projects in 11 countries. Of the total project costs of US\$ 3,003.35 million, IFAD contributed 17 per cent, other external donors 30 per cent and the recipient countries 53 per cent. In 1991, under the regular programme, the Near East and North Africa region received approximately US\$ 11.85 million in assistance for the Sidi M'Hadeb Agricultural and Fisheries Project in Tunisia. The objective of the project was to halt pasture, forest and water resource degradation through a self-help approach encompassing the establishment of community groups and herders' associations, which would participate in the planning and implementation of project activities. The total cost of the project was US\$ 37.2 million, of which IFAD share was 31.9 per cent. Other external donors provided 35.6 per cent and the recipient countries 32.5 per cent.

V. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

139. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has continued to cooperate with the League of Arab States particularly during the last few years.

140. UNIDO has undertaken various activities with the Arab regional organizations dealing with industrial activities, namely, the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO), the Arab Railway Union (ARU), the Arab Union for Cement and Building Materials (AUCBM), the Union of Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, the Arab Federation of Food Industries (AFFI) and the Arab Iron and Steel Union (AISU). It has implemented jointly with AIDMO a number of projects including national, subregional and regional workshops.

141. UNIDO also participated actively in the deliberations of the executive board meeting of AIDMO which took place at Cairo, in October 1991.

142. UNIDO and the Arab regional organizations cooperated in the Special Programme for Industrial Development in the Arab Countries drawn up two years ago, which had the following priorities:

- (a) Training and development of manpower;
- (b) Standardization and quality control;
- (c) Development of technological functions and capacities;
- (d) Marketing and trade in industrial products;
- (e) Industrial information.

143. Direct cooperation with the Economic Department of the League of Arab States which had been initiated in 1991 led to fruitful results. LAS agreed to contribute to the Special Programme for Arab Countries by means of preliminary financial commitments. LAS also took part in the last inter-agency meeting on the special programme for industrial development in the Arab countries held in February 1992 by UNIDO. At that meeting it was decided that LAS, AIDMO, ESCWA and UNIDO were to act as the sponsoring and collaborating organizations for the special programme for industrial development in the Arab countries. Furthermore, it was decided that a meeting would be held at LAS headquarters at Cairo in July 1992 for these organizations to discuss a number of projects, including the mobilization of resources for the special programme.

W. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

144. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) has continued to cooperate with States members of the League of Arab States, both contracting parties to the Agreement or applying the GATT principles on a de facto basis, by providing technical assistance with a view to facilitating their more effective participation in the GATT trading system. Assistance has also been provided to those members of LAS which participate in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

145. In addition, GATT will continue to provide training facilities in its commercial policy courses to officials from member States of LAS.
